

proper perspective. No one does a better job in taking complex issues, simplifying them and explaining them. He understands how all the pieces in a legislative operation fit together.

He understands politics.

He understands policy.

He understands press.

That combination of skills—that kind of raw talent and intuitive intelligence—is a true rarity here in Washington or anywhere, for that matter.

As anyone who has worked with Robert knows, he always gets the job done. No ifs. No buts. No excuses. He just gets the job done. He is a fair and tempered negotiator. Certainly, I have seen that. I have seen him in situations where I didn't think we would be successful, and he went into negotiation and came out with a lot better deal than I imagined we could achieve. He gets it done in a quiet, thoughtful, professional way. Robert Hoffman knows how to get bills passed into law. He knows the ins and outs of the legislative process. And, he has the ability to bring sides together to reach consensus and build bipartisan relationships.

While Robert's professionalism and work ethic are second to none, I would be remiss to not mention Robert's strength of character and personal integrity.

He is a gentleman—a kind man, a sincere man, and a man who cares about people. He cares about every single person in my office.

He cares about them on a professional level, and he cares about them on a personal level. He cares about them as people.

Robert Hoffman is a good man, and I am privileged to have had the extraordinary opportunity to work with him and call him my friend.

As he departs Capitol Hill after twelve fruitful, fearless, and fun years, I wish him and his lovely new wife, Andrea, all the best in the world. Thank you, Robert.

Mr. President, those in the Chamber and on Capitol Hill who will miss Robert Hoffman will still be able to see him. One of the easiest ways to do that is to watch the reruns of "Little House on the Prairie." Robert started his professional career actually before he came to Capitol Hill. He started as one of the stars on the original version of "Little House on the Prairie." Those of you who are up late at night and who have the opportunity to see a rerun, if you see someone who looks like Robert Hoffman, it is. You will have the opportunity to see a much younger version of Robert on that show.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MODIFICATION OF UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT WITH RESPECT TO CONFEREES TO THE BUDGET RESOLUTION

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, on behalf of Leader LOTT, I ask unanimous consent that the previous consent agreement with respect to conferees to the budget resolution be modified to allow for one additional conferee per side, and further, the Republican conferee be Senator NICKLES and the Democrat nominee be named on April 23.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 8

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, also, on behalf of the leader, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for its second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 8) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to phase out the estate and gift taxes over a 10-year period, and for other purposes.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I object to further proceedings on this bill at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. This bill will be placed on the calendar.

#### CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR THEIR CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 69, submitted earlier today by Senators BAYH and LUGAR.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 69) congratulating the Fighting Irish of the University of Notre Dame for winning the 2001 women's basketball championship.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleague from Indiana as a cosponsor of this resolution congratulating the women's basketball team of the University of Notre Dame for winning the 2001 women's basketball championship.

This remarkable achievement by the Fighting Irish women's basketball team culminates a season in which Coach Muffet McGraw and her team achieved an outstanding 34-2 record. Player Ruth Riley, an Indiana native, earned the titles Big East Player of the Year and Outstanding Player of the Final Four. Her teammate, Niele Ivey, suffered a sprained ankle during the semifinal game but persevered to help the Fighting Irish win their 68-66 final game victory over the determined Purdue University Lady Boilermakers.

The women basketball players of Notre Dame offer an example of dedication, skill, and sportsmanship as they bring Notre Dame its first national basketball title.

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I rise today with my colleague Senator RICHARD LUGAR to introduce a bipartisan resolution honoring the University of Notre Dame women's basketball team for winning the school's first ever National Collegiate Athletic Association, NCAA, Division I basketball championship.

On April 1, 2001, this remarkable group of young women—led by senior All-American and native Hoosier Ruth Riley, have taken their place in Notre Dame's long and storied tradition of academic and athletic excellence with a victory over the Purdue University Boilermakers.

This match-up made NCAA history, as it was the first time two teams from the same state appeared in the NCAA women's basketball championship game. I cannot think of a more fitting place from which these two special teams could hail than from Indiana, basketball's heartland. It is a wonderful tribute to these two teams and their fine universities, and an honor for the state of Indiana to gain that distinction.

As Hoosiers across our state and basketball fans around the nation watched with excitement and anticipation, both teams put forth a tremendous effort that made for a spectacular game. These true competitors displayed immense talent and ability as they engaged each other relentlessly throughout the forty minute championship game. The determination and commitment of both the Fighting Irish and the Boilermakers exemplifies our Hoosier values and serves as a tremendous source of pride for the state of Indiana.

Behind every great team is a great coach, and Notre Dame's Muffet McGraw is no exception. Coach McGraw provided the Fighting Irish with the stewardship needed for an outstanding record of thirty-four wins and only two losses during the 2000-2001 season, en route to the national championship. The Notre Dame community should be very proud of both Coach McGraw's leadership and her team's outstanding accomplishments as student athletes.

In dramatic fashion, the Fighting Irish turned around a twelve point deficit and tied the game with one minute remaining. With 5.8 seconds remaining, Ms. Riley made two free throws to complete the comeback and secure a 68-66 victory for the Fighting Irish. Ms. Riley, who earned the tournament's Most Outstanding Player honors, was also named national Player of the Year and was a unanimous selection as first team All-American. Through hard work and determination, Ruth Riley and her teammates advanced the sport of women's basketball and provided inspiration for future generations of young female athletes.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, that any statements relating thereto be placed in the RECORD at the appropriate place as if read, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 69) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The text of the resolution is printed in Today's RECORD under "Statements on Submitted Resolutions.")

#### HONORING THE SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS FOR 135 YEARS OF SERVICE

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 70, submitted earlier today by Senator DURBIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 70) honoring the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for its 135 years of service to the people of the United States and their animals.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, that any statements relating thereto be placed in the RECORD at the appropriate place as if read, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 70) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The text of the resolution is located in Today's RECORD under "Statements on Submitted Resolutions.")

#### AUTHORIZING PRINTING OF UPDATED VERSION OF "BLACK AMERICANS IN CONGRESS"

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from the consideration of H. Con. Res. 43 and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 43) authorizing the printing of a revised and updated version of the House document entitled "Black Americans in Congress, 1870-1989."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the mo-

tion to reconsider be laid upon the table, all with no intervening action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 43) was agreed to.

#### APPOINTMENTS

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 100-696, appoints the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) as a member of the United States Capitol Preservation Commission.

The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 94-118, reappoints the Senator from Alaska (Mr. MURKOWSKI) to the Japan-United States Friendship Commission.

#### AUTHORITY TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President of the Senate pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or inter-parliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### STAR PRINT—S. 525

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a star print of S. 525 be made with the changes that are at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE 1944 DEPORTATION OF THE CHECHEN PEOPLE

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of calendar No. 27, S. Res. 27.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 27) to express the sense of the Senate regarding the 1944 deportation of the Chechen people to central Asia, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and finally, that any statements appear at this point in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 27) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 27

Whereas for more than 200 years, the Chechen people have resisted the efforts of the Russian government to drive them from their land and to deny them their own culture;

Whereas beginning on February 23, 1944, nearly 500,000 Chechen civilians from the northern Caucasus were arrested en masse and forced onto trains for deportation to central Asia;

Whereas tens of thousands of Chechens, mainly women, children, and the elderly, died en route to central Asia;

Whereas mass killings and the use of poisons against the Chechen people accompanied the deportation;

Whereas the Chechen deportees were not given food, housing, or medical attention upon their arrival in central Asia;

Whereas the Soviet Union actively attempted to suppress expressions of Chechen culture, including language, architecture, literature, music, and familial relations during the exile of the Chechen people;

Whereas it is generally accepted that more than one-third of the Chechen population died in transit during the deportation or while living in exile in central Asia;

Whereas the deportation order was not repealed until 1957;

Whereas the Chechens who returned to Chechnya found their homes and land taken over by new residents who violently opposed the Chechen return; and

Whereas neither the Soviet Union, nor its successor, the Russian Federation, has ever accepted full responsibility for the brutalities inflicted upon the Chechen people: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States should commemorate the 57th anniversary of the brutal deportation of the Chechen people from their native land;

(2) the current war in Chechnya should be viewed within the historical context of repeated abuses suffered by the Chechen people at the hands of the Russian state;

(3) the United States Government should make every effort to alleviate the suffering of the Chechen people; and

(4) it is in the interests of the United States, the Russian Federation, Chechnya, and the international community to find an immediate, peaceful, and political solution to the war in Chechnya.

#### URGING THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF KOSOVAR ALBANIANS WRONGFULLY IMPRISONED

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 28, S. Res. 60.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 60) urging the immediate release of Kosovar Albanians wrongfully imprisoned in Serbia, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid